

Department of Planning and Budget 2019 Fiscal Impact Statement

1. Bill Number: SB1280

House of Origin	☐ Introduced	☒ Substitute	☐ Engrossed
Second House	☐ In Committee	☐ Substitute	☐ Enrolled

2. Patron: Barker

3. Committee: Education and Health

4. Title: Community health worker; VDH to approve one or more entities to certify workers in the Commonwealth.

5. Summary: Requires that an individual seeking certification as a certified community health worker in the Commonwealth shall submit to the Department a completed application and evidence satisfactory to the Department that the individual is certified by a Department-approved credentialing entity. The Department shall establish standards for the approval of credentialing entities. Any such entity shall have a certification process that is based on a standard scope of practice and core competencies aligned with national standards.

6. Budget Amendment Necessary: Yes.

7. Fiscal Impact Estimates: Preliminary, see item 8.

7a. Expenditure Impact:

<i>Fiscal Year</i>	<i>Dollars</i>	<i>Positions</i>	<i>Fund</i>
2019	\$139,025	0	General

8. Fiscal Implications: This bill would have a fiscal impact on the Commonwealth to develop a system to review and track completed applications submitted by community health workers. The Office of Family Health Services (OFHS) currently does not review, track, or certify individuals and does not have any prior certification experience. However, the Office of Emergency Medical Services (OEMS) has an existing certification system which can be modified to give access to OFHS in order to review and track individuals meeting the requirements set out in the bill to become a certified community health worker. There is not enough data to determine how many community health workers currently exist in Virginia and would seek certification. VDH is also responsible for ensuring that the certifying agency meets national standards and that the completed applications and evidence submitted are accurate.

Cost estimates, which are based on the use of existing hardware and infrastructure, estimate that building a new module that would work with the existing EMS system would have a one-time cost of \$101,025 from the general fund. Any ongoing maintenance costs for the program would be absorbed by the existing funding for the system. Besides providing the

basic functionality of the certification system, VDH would also be responsible for: printing physical certification cards, online access for OFHS staff to facilitate reviews and any necessary follow-up, and an online validation function that works with the existing OEMS verification system. Based on the cost to other systems for similar functions, VDH estimates that these costs as well as any IT programming, VITA costs, and other printing costs would be \$38,000.

Data will be transferred from a third party vendor into the system based upon those who are eligible for certification by the Department of Health (VDH). The EMS Portal already has this functionality, as the EMS data comes from a third party vendor in the same fashion.

VDH has raised concerns over the legality of a delegation of authority to a private entity to certify community health workers. If VDH were to have to assume the role of the certifying entity for community health workers (rather than simply approving the private certifying entities), this database may be used in the same capacity for the certification of community health workers. This may, however, result in an increase in workload and require additional resources. The extent of such additional resource needs, if any, cannot be determined at this time.

9. Specific Agency or Political Subdivisions Affected: None.

10. Technical Amendment Necessary: No.

11. Other Comments: HB2004H1, introduced by Delegate Aird, is a companion bill.